

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting  
May 6, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Michael J. Retzky, Chairman  
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman  
Thomas M. Jacob, Member  
David C. DiCicco, Member  
Andrea L. Shorthose, Member  
Patricia M. Carey, Director  
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

**GUESTS:** Janet Jankowiak, YMCA  
Connie Kaufman, YMCA

The meeting convened at 6:10PM in Powers Hall located in the Needham Town Hall.

1. **Minutes of Meeting:** None presented
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the following:
  - Summer program registration begins at 9:00AM on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Four more lifeguard interviews are scheduled.
  - The Fishing Derby was held on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 85 people attended. Had great volunteers from Pollard Community Service and the High School Fishing buddies Club.
  - The Town Wide Clean Up and Trail Clean Up was held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 60 people attended and 1311 pounds of trash was picked up at parks, playgrounds and the Greendale Trail.
4. **Discussion Items:**
  - A. **Town Meeting Preparation:** Ms. Carey reported that the League of Women Voters Information night was held on April 29<sup>th</sup> and the Town budget and community Preservation proposed projects were reviewed.
  - B. **Camp Property:** Ms. Carey shared information regarding the encroachment issues at the camp property. Twenty feet of land under Park and Recreation's jurisdiction was mistakenly taken by the abutter on Armen Way as part of a backyard renovation. Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick suggested that retired Police Chief Tom Leary be appointed to interview all the parties involved to clarify the misunderstandings related to the encroachment issues. Once the report is finalized and reviewed, the Park and Recreation Commission will have three choices, 1) The abutter restores the land that was mistakenly taken, 2) the abutter applies for an easement from the Town, or 3) the abutter purchases the property from the Town. Some of the options will require consultation with Town Counsel. This topic will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

**C. Easements:** Ms. Carey, Mr. DiCicco, Mrs. Chaston, met with the Town Manager and representatives of the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission to discuss easements in Town. Ms. Carey suggested signage at all trail entrances where there are easements to indicate access in areas that typically look like private property.

**D. Trail Projects:** Ms. Peirce ordered new trail signs and they have been delivered. The Greendale Avenue Trail clean up was a big success. At the Trails Advisory Group meeting, Ms. Peirce and Ms. Carey discussed with the members the possibility of using some of the Harold J. A. Street III Trust money for trail improvements and possibly build the kiosks with a Trex-like material so they will last much longer. The advisory group understands that no decision on use of the Street donation has been made, but that the kiosks are one of the options. Conservation Director Patty Barry will work with the Town carpenters to get a price on kiosks made out of a Trex-like material.

**E. Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey reported the pool has been draining and when it is completely drained it can be cleaned, painted and filled. Mr. Jacob noted that he was interviewed by the Needham Times about the Rosemary Pool Feasibility Study.

**F. Proposed Rail Trail-Southern Section:** Ms. Carey shared the Rail Trail Feasibility Study completed by Fay, Spofford and Thorndike. The Finance Committee is supportive of the Proposed Rail Trail but recommended that more information be gathered to answer some of the outstanding questions regarding the lease agreement and insurance. Ms. Carey recently walked portions of the northern and southern portion of the rail trail with Bob LaVita from Transit Realty who represents the MBTA. He explained the MBTA's reasons for wanting to retain space between the Junction and High Rock Street, but encouraged the Selectmen to continue the discussion with the MBTA.

**G. Greene's Field Project:** Ms. Carey shared an updated draft map/design plan for Greene's Field. She also shared a letter from a Greene's field neighbor and a letter from the Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick responding to the neighbors concerns. The project should go out to bid in about one week.

**H. Spring/Summer Field Scheduling:** Ms. Carey reported that Needham Baseball and Softball (NB&S) held their Opening Day Celebration on Saturday, April 28, 2013. The parade began at Greene's Field and ended at DeFazio Park and was a successful event. Several dogs were observed at the event and a dumpster was placed in the handicapped parking spot near the Carleton Pavilion. The dumpster was scheduled for removal on April 29<sup>th</sup>, but Ms. Carey reminded NB&S about the location of the dumpster for future events. She also gave NB&S a copy of a letter from a Broadmeadow 1<sup>st</sup> grader who was concerned about the location of the dumpster. Mr. DiCicco suggested a larger "no dogs allowed" sign be posted at the park. Neighbors have reported that people attending sporting events at DeFazio Park are parking on George Aggott Road. Ms. Carey sent an email to all the user groups reminding them to park in the DeFazio parking lot and not on the street. The most recent complaint was related to a JV baseball game. The Commissioners want to assist the neighbors and suggested having no parking signs on George Aggot Road. Ms. Carey suggested someone from the Commission ask

to be on the Traffic Advisory Board agenda to discuss parking issues at parks and fields. Ms. Carey reported the YMCA organized street hockey program has been using the basketball court at Greene's Field without a permit. As they had already scheduled two programs, she has given them temporary use of the Perry Park basketball court to finish this season, but no space will be provided in the future. Ms. Carey has received one complaint about the use of Perry for this program. Ms. Carey shared two new program forms from Needham Baseball and Softball, 1) Summer Baseball for ages 5-7 and 2) an in-town program for 11-12 year olds in conjunction with the Majors division. These spring program will take place with NB&S current permits, and Ms. Carey will discuss summer options with NB&S.

**5. Action Items**

**A. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket):** Nothing presented.

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- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:** Proposed Rail Trail South Section  
Rosemary Pool, Streetscape Committee Report,  
Greene's Field, Easements, Walker Gordon Project

- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiCicco and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP  
Assistant Director